

In the Matter of)	
)	
The Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and the Connect)	WC Docket 18-143
USVI Fund)	

Released: November 2, 2020

12712

4. On September 3, 2020, the Bureau received applications from carriers proposing to serve geographic areas in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.⁸ Blackburn submitted an application for support in Puerto Rico pending its petition for reconsideration of the Bureau's decision not to waive the eligibility requirement for participation in the Stage 2 competitive process.⁹ Aeronet submitted an application for Puerto Rico along with a petition for waiver requesting the Bureau use an alternative methodology for determining network miles for fixed wireless networks when considering applications.¹⁰ Critical Hub also submitted an application and a petition for waiver requesting more time to submit an additional letter of credit bank commitment letter and asking to be able to amend its application to serve additional areas of Puerto Rico after the application deadline.¹¹

III. DISCUSSION

5. On November 2, 2020, the Bureau released a public notice announcing the winning proposals for the Stage 2 competitive process of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund.¹² None of the proposals from Blackburn, Aeronet or Critical Hub received the lowest, winning aggregate score based on price, network performance, and resiliency and redundancy, nor would any of the proposals have received the lowest, winning aggregate score based on price, network performance, and resiliency and redundancy, even if their respective petitions were granted. Accordingly, we dismiss as moot all three petitions.¹³

IV. ORDERING CLAUSES

6. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to the authority found in Sections 1, 4(i), 5(c), and 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151, 154(i), 155(c), 254, and sections 0.91, 0.291, and 1.3 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.91, 0.291, 1.3, 1.106 that this Order IS ADOPTED.

7. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Petition for Reconsideration of Blackburn Technologies II, LLC filed on August 26, 2020 is DISMISSED.

8. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Request for Limited Waiver of Aeronet Wireless Broadband, LLC filed on September 3, 2020 is DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

⁸ *Wireline Competition Bureau Announces Applications Submitted to Participate in the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and Connect USVI Fund Stage 2 Fixed Competitive Proposal Process*, Public Notice, WC Docket Nos. 18-143 et al., DA 20-1090 (rel. Sept. 18, 2020).

⁹ *Id.* at n.5.

¹⁰ See Aeronet Application Waiver.

¹¹ See Critical Hub Application Waiver.

¹² *Wireline Competition Bureau Announces Winning Applicants for Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund Stage 2 Competitive Process*, Public Notice, WC Docket Nos. 18-143, 10-90, DA 20-1299 (rel. Nov. 2, 2020).

¹³ Although the Bureau dismisses the petitions for waiver from Aeronet and Critical Hub as moot, we do so without prejudice because these applicants submitted otherwise completed applications prior to the deadline and, in the event a winning applicant defaults prior to its authorization for support, the Bureau reserves the right to consider on the merits the waiver requests filed by Aeronet and Critical Hub. If necessary to determine the next-in-line applicant, the Bureau will contact the applicants to renew their respective petitions.

9. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Request for Temporary Waiver of Letter of Credit Commitment Letter and Authority to File Alternative Schedule Bs Based on Funding Commitments of Critical Hub Networks, Inc. filed on September 3, 2020 is DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

10. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to section 1.102(b)(1) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 1.102(b)(1), this Order SHALL BE EFFECTIVE upon release.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Kris Anne Monteith
Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau